

tsunami that followed, Europe basically decided to hang up on any additional nuclear production. So natural gas prices, which are going to sustain the greatest demand, will go up about 600 percent. Since the start of the year, they have. The situation is so dire that utility companies have switched from natural gas and now begin to burn coal and fuel oil because they simply don't have access to enough natural gas.

This is the problem with the push to quickly move away from fossil fuels before we are ready to transition into other types of energy sources and when you punish the producers of that affordable energy.

Renewables, as laudable as they are—and in Texas, we are an “all of the above” State. We produce more electricity from wind turbines than any other State in the Nation. But renewables don't come close to generating enough energy to power our world.

If the United States and our allies scale back production to pursue arbitrary emission benchmarks, that leaves the world turning to countries like Russia and organizations like OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, to provide that energy. So it is no wonder that Russia is a no-show at the U.N. climate summit. They are actually the ones that will stand to benefit the most if other countries eliminate fossil fuels from their fuel mix because other countries around the world will have no choice but to buy more and more Russian energy.

In his remarks yesterday, President Biden said we should view the current price volatility as a call to action rather than a reason to back off our clean energy goals. Well, I disagree. Families are being pummeled by high prices across the board. We don't need to increase that burden by driving up costs or potentially adding an energy crisis to the mix.

As I said, Texas has always been a proud supporter of the “all of the above” energy strategy. We are often recognized for the might of our oil and gas sector. But a lot of folks don't know, as I said, that Texas is a leader in wind energy. Well, we produce about one-quarter of all the wind energy in the United States. If we were a country, we would be the fifth-largest wind energy producer in the world. We don't plan on stopping there. We are also making serious strides in energy innovation through cutting-edge carbon capture and storage projects.

Texas is proof positive that we can strike a balance between conservation, productivity, and economic power, and you can embrace low-emission energy sources without hammering the middle class. But those are not the types of proposals we see from the tax-and-spending spree bill now pending before the House of Representatives. This bill would simply drive up costs for hard-working American families, hurt our energy independence, and benefit our adversaries.

This may impress President Biden's peers in Glasgow, but it is sure to fall flat with the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, during my time in the Senate, I have always tried to honor the work of whistleblowers. Those who speak up about government wrongdoing ought to be rewarded and not sidelined and punished. But that is exactly what happened in the Indian Health Service according to a recently released internal report. Now, this goes back a few years, but it still is a constant reminder of how whistleblowers aren't listened to and bad things happen.

According to this internal report, in August 2006, a Dr. Mark Butterbrodt wrote to his superiors about a fellow doctor. Over the course of years, he repeatedly made extremely serious whistleblower complaints alleging that his colleague, a Dr. Stanley Weber, was sexually assaulting his young patients. He was not alone, because other staff tried to report Weber to those at the very top. His behavior was described as an “open secret.” It is even alleged that the standard orientation for new nurses included a warning to never leave Dr. Weber alone with young boys.

The response from the Indian Health Service senior staff was silence, so the crimes continued. Over a decade after the first whistleblower report, Dr. Weber continued to sexually assault young boys who came to the Indian Health Service for help.

Instead of removing the man who had been repeatedly, credibly accused of sexually abusing his patients, they punished the whistleblower.

Too often in government, we see the people who report wrongdoing being punished.

Numerous senior officials broke the law by failing to report allegations to law enforcement, so the crime could continue. Instead, what did they do? They promoted Dr. Weber to manage those who witnessed his crimes.

By contrast, the report states that Dr. Butterbrodt was “banished”—and the word “banished” is in quotation marks—to the “very remote and rural facility” in Belcourt, ND. So the doctor who was the patriotic American, reporting crimes, eventually resigned, and that was shortly after he was banished to a very remote and rural facility.

This shameful response by the Indian Health Service leadership had a direct impact on future whistleblowers. If you have an environment that discourages whistleblowing, what are you going to get? Less whistleblowing.

This internal report states that “nurses told Dr. Butterbrodt that now he could see why they never speak up.”

It is unconscionable that these whistleblowers were ignored and a pedophile was allowed to act with impunity. That is why I recently sent a letter to the Acting Director of Indian Health Service to ensure that future patients and whistleblowers do not face the same treatment. I want to make sure that processes have been put in place so that this doesn't happen again.

Dr. Butterbrodt and those like him were right to blow the whistle. We need to make it easier, not harder, to do the right thing.

There is a pattern about whistleblowers. They tend to be treated like skunks at a picnic. They usually end up doing what is patriotic, only to hurt themselves professionally, maybe even becoming unemployed just because they do what most civil servants want to do—just have the government do what the law requires or how the money is spent according to law.

So I take the advantage—every time a Cabinet person or sub-Cabinet person comes to my office for their usual interviews before confirmation, I advise them, whether they run an Agency that maybe has 3,000 or 4,000 people to an Agency that has—I suppose like the Veterans Administration, which I think has 400,000 people—you are head of that Department. You don't know what is going on by everybody underneath you. You should listen to whistleblowers.

They all assure me that they will, but somehow the culture in our government doesn't seem to change.

ALUMNI FREE SPEECH ALLIANCE

Mr. President, on another point, I have spoken many times about the importance of our First Amendment freedoms. Our commitment to the open discussion of ideas is one reason why America has been successful. Unfortunately, it has become increasingly difficult to have these conversations and open discussions in our universities.

It seems like every week, we hear new stories about speakers being shouted down or new limits being placed on academic freedom. That is why alumni need to speak up. So my remarks today are about an organization called the Alumni Free Speech Alliance. Anyone who sees a radically different school than they graduated from needs to be willing to say so.

Today, I highlight the work of this organization, repeating their name again—the Alumni Free Speech Alliance. This group was created by graduates of several colleges who noticed that their alma maters were becoming more hostile to freedom of speech and academic freedom wasn't being followed. The Alumni Free Speech Alliance partnered with organizations of alumni at each of their former colleges to pool their resources. By working with those who support open discourse, they hope to make it easier to create these alumni groups at more colleges and grow the ones that exist.